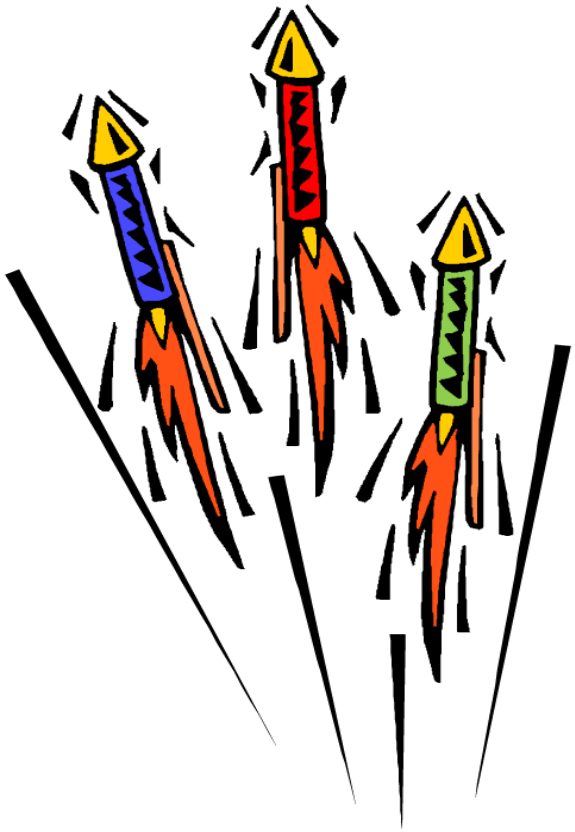
Fireworks Safety

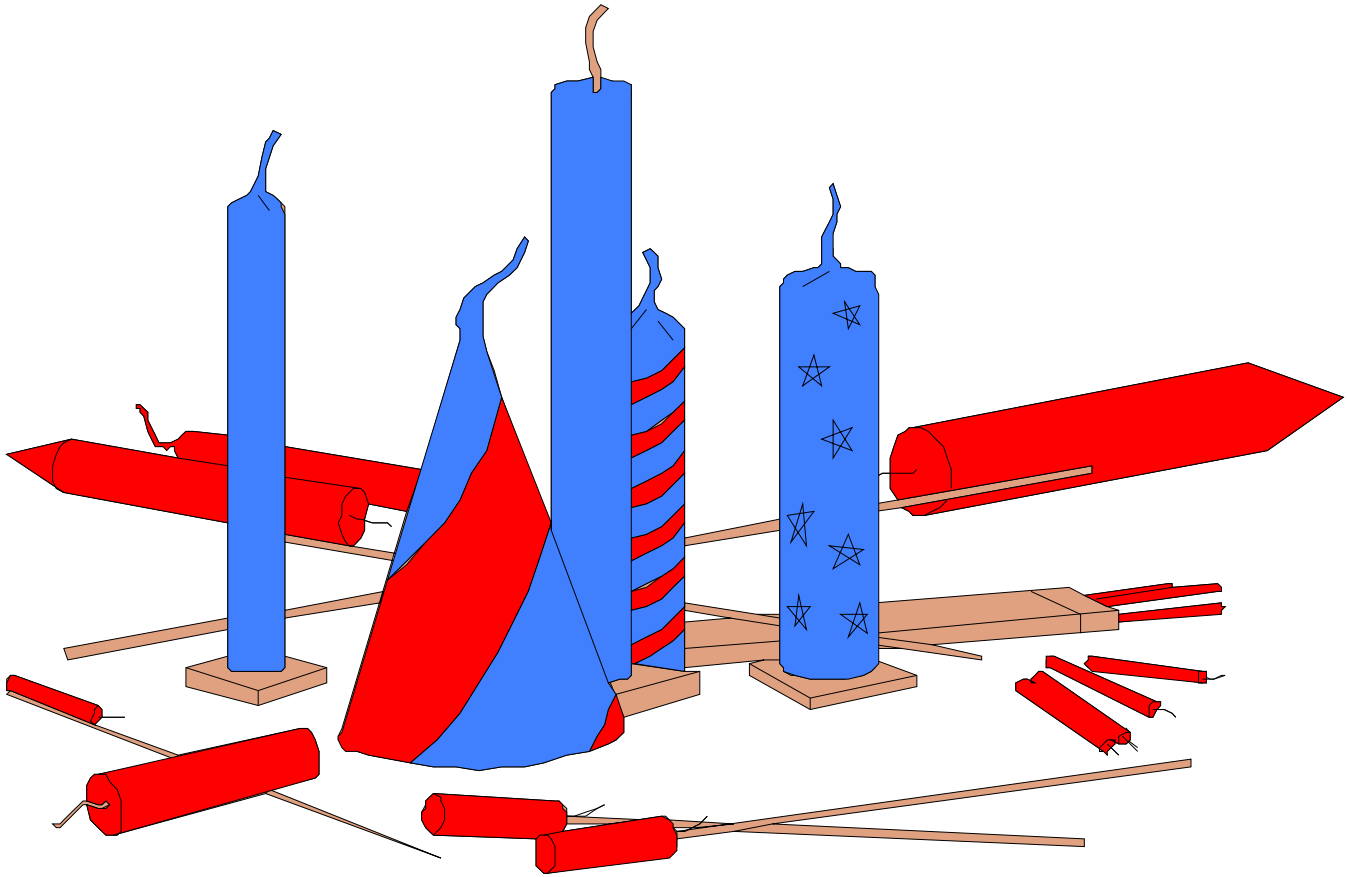


Overview

- Who is Injured?
- When and Where do Injuries Occur?
- Types of Injuries
- Types of Fireworks
- Prevention Tips

The Problem

- How extensive is the problem?



The Problem

- Malfunction and careless use of fireworks results in thousands of injuries annually.

Injuries

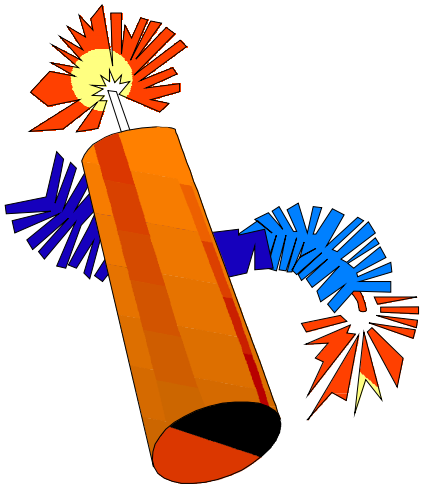
- Who is most likely to be injured?

Injuries

- **Over 40% of those injured from fireworks are children 14 years of age and younger.**
- **Males are injured three times as frequently as females.**
  - Boys between the ages of 10 and 14 years have the highest rate of injury.

When and Where

- When and Where Do These Injuries Happen?



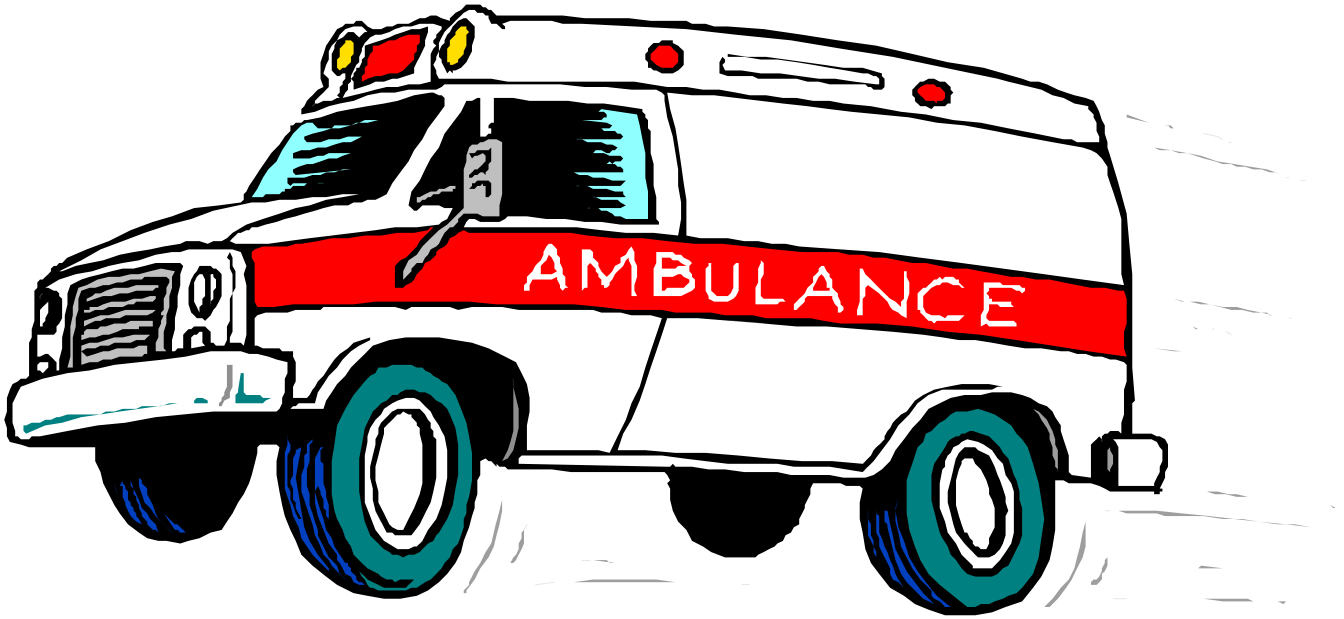
When and Where

- Injuries occur on and around holidays associated with fireworks celebrations, especially Independence Day. Two-thirds of all fireworks injuries occur during the month of July.

- Homes are where most of these injuries occur, followed by recreational settings, streets or highways, and parking lots or occupational settings.

Types of Injury

- What kinds of injuries occur?



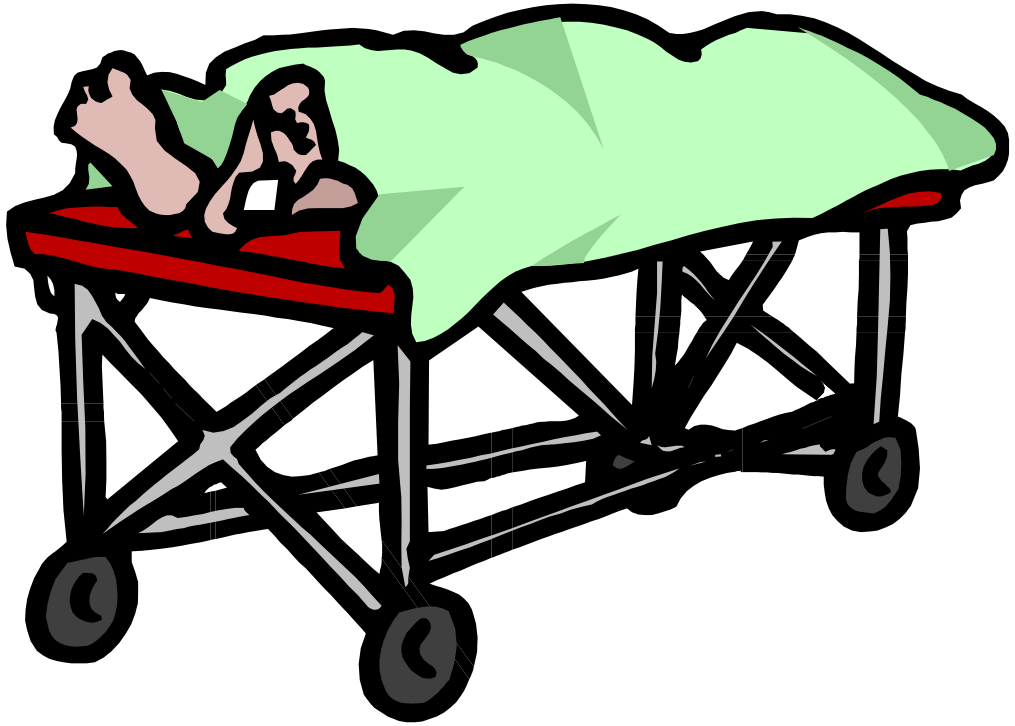
Types of Injury

- Fireworks-related injuries most frequently involve hands and fingers (38%), and eyes (19%).

- **About half of the injuries are burns, especially to the face, hand, wrist, or arm. A small percentage of firework-related injuries lead to the amputation of hands or fingers.**

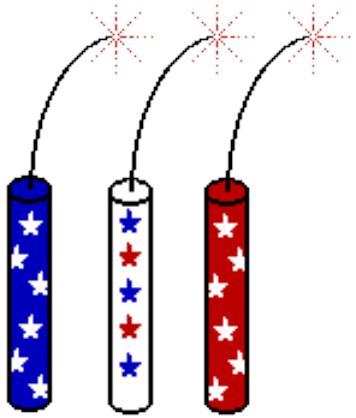
Types of Injury

- Fireworks can be life-threatening. In 1997, seven people were killed from fireworks-related injuries.



Types of Fireworks

- What types of fireworks are associated with the most injuries?



Types of Fireworks

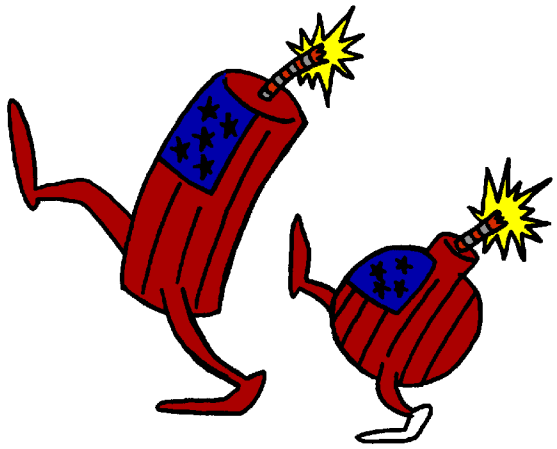
- Nearly two thirds of fireworks-related injuries are caused by backyard, "class C" fireworks such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, Roman candles, fountains, and sparklers, that are legal in many states.

- Specifically, fireworks-related injuries are most commonly associated with firecrackers (51%), bottle rockets (12%), and sparklers (7%).

Types of Fireworks

- The most severe injuries are typically caused by "class B" fireworks, such as rockets, cherry bombs and M-80s, which are federally banned from public sale.

- **Illegal firecrackers represent 29% of all firecracker injuries.**

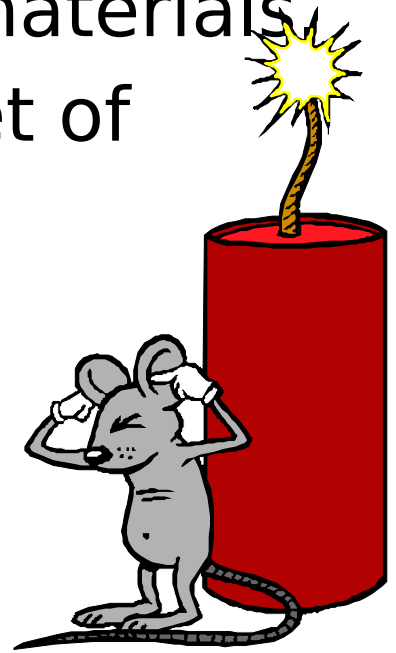


Prevention

- What is the safest way to prevent fireworks injuries?

Prevention

- Prohibit children less than 14 years old from using fireworks and supervise older children.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Only use fireworks outdoors and keep them away from houses and flammable materials.
- When using fireworks, have a bucket of water or charged hose nearby.



Prevention

- Be sure other people are out-of-range and a safe distance away before lighting fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container (especially a glass or metal container).
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Alcohol and fireworks do NOT mix.

Prevention

- Always store your fireworks in a cool dry place.
- Only light one item at a time.
- Never try to re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.
- Never throw or point fireworks at another person.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Always read and FOLLOW directions on the label.

Summary

- CPSC advises consumers to leave fireworks to the professionals

But if fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow the provided safety tips.

- Use Common Sense!
- And Have a Happy 4th of July!